

Press Release

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Larrabee Wins Olympic Peninsula Regional Bus Rodeo Competition

After a 2-year furlough, the Olympic Peninsula Regional Bus Rodeo returned to Clallam Transit System's headquarters on Sunday, June 14, 2015. The Clallam Transit System has been host for the professional operator/driver training event which draws upwards of 65 people to compete, judge, score and support. This year the competition involved fixed route operators and paratransit operators from Grays Harbor Transportation Authority in Hoquim and Clallam Transit System in Port Angeles. In addition, Dungeness Lines of Port Angeles enrolled a coach operator. A total of twelve drivers entered the competition in 2 categories of 35-foot coach or body-on-chassis. Top winners from each transit agency are eligible to compete for the State title at the Washington State Bus Rodeo, in late August, to be held in Vancouver, WA in August

In a bus rodeo, transit operators maneuver their coaches through a series of 11 events marked with traffic cones. The events simulate situations that a bus might encounter in the real world, although these events are set up to be especially difficult, often with literally only inches of clearance. Each event is timed and operators are also judged on safety practices, smoothness of operation, passenger relations, personal appearance, and transporting the disabled.

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Last year's 3rd place State winner placed top Champion for the event. CTS Forks operator/maintenance worker, David Larrabee, scored the highest overall and in the 35-foot category. Larrabee, an experienced operator, took no exception to the judges scoring of the most difficult maneuver. Larrabee has demonstrable fun while performing at his best. In the body-on-chassis category, Dungeness Lines driver, Jessica Lee scored the highest. For Clallam Transit System Agency, other top candidates are Bruce Monro and Joe Hooker earning second and third place to Larrabee and Karen Martin and Chuck Olsen earning first and second place in body-on-chassis category.